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tions (kudai or khuday yolyna) in small livestock, on various occasions, and 3) in the five kopek collection made from each person when the parishioners come to the breaking of the fast (urazany bittir), the day before the holiday, or on the very day - not later. The imam buys an animal on account of this collection in order to ragale everyone (kudai).

The muezzin (sufi) is usually a literate Kazakh /251/ in the service of an imam. The parishioners pay him nothing.

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The Kazakhs had no local or general annual holidays. Now they celebrate both annual Moslem holidays, Uraza-Bairam and Kurban-Bairam, on which they arrange races and kukbure.

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There are very many schools (mekteb) in the steppe. In every Kirgiz volost of the Auliye-Ata uyezd there are from one to four schools maintained by wealthy people.

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They read the same books as the Sarts. The schools are in buildings or in tents. The owner of the latter invites a teacher (molda damulla) for his children for a year from the Kazakhs. He gives him a horse, a long coat, etc. The neighbors send their children to this mullah for the payment of one tillia per year.

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The clergy and the teachers, if they are not Sarts, are tried by biis. Bothering them with the oath for outsiders is avoided.

They are not rejected for bad behavior which is known by rumor. For being convicted in court they forfeit trust or their places.

Casting lots.

627

When a dispute arises in the division of land or meat over the inequality of the parts, they "throw dice" (chub tastaydy). Each of the participants in this division lays a twig, which he has separated from others by cutting it off, into the skull cap of an outside disinterested person, who turns around so as not to see which twig belongs to which person. Then this person takes out the twigs and lays them on the corresponding sides. It is not customary to declare the lots invalid (chubti buzbaydy).

/252/ Wagers

526

The Kazakhs lay a wager (chirt, sert) as to which of two persons is right, or else on the accomplishment of something, for example, not sleeping for a certain number of days, etc. In a combat or in a competition of two singers the observers, divided into two parties, sometimes lay a wager on the victory of one singer or the other. The

/220 cont./

793 to supplement their education they travel to the learned centers of Islam -- to Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent, and Samarkand (1).

1. The volost mullah is called akhun. The chief spiritual figure (with the power of our /Eastern Orthodox/ bishop /arkhierey/) is the Mufti, who lives in European Russia.

799 Recently, with the intensification of connections with the Moslems
777 of Central Asia, /221/ Islam has begun to take deeper root.
788 /Illustration appears here./ This can be deduced indirectly by the increase of pilgrimages to Mecca. In 1901 up to 300 pilgrimage tickets were issued in Omsk.

796 Among the holidays we will mention "Kurbanayz" ("the
782 sacrifice," symbolizing the offering of Isaac as a sacrifice). On this holiday it is necessary to slaughter (offer as a sacrifice) the best male animal (horse or bull, "so that in the other world, when the sinners are driven through hell along a thin tightrope as sharp as a saber, they will have something on which to ride"). Usually one animal is slaughtered for every seven persons. According to an old custom the rich invite all the poor of the village to eat with them. The hides of the animals go to the mullah. The
796 holiday is accompanied by games and amusements. Of these the
526 races, in which girls also take part, are popular. The adults delight in the running of their best racers, while the young people amuse themselves by chasing each other. If a young man catches a girl, he is permitted to kiss her. If he fails to catch her, the girl will chase him back. This is a movable holiday.

796 In memory of the fasting of Mohammed, there has been
785 established a thirty-day "uraza" (fast), and the month of this fast is called "Ramazan." During this time the Kirghiz /Kazak/ is obliged to renounce food and drink from sunrise ("as soon as only a thread is visible") until sundown. Eating is permissible only at night. The Kirghiz /Kazak/ have adapted themselves to this by eating and drinking all night and sleeping during the daytime. In winter this fast passes easily, but in summer, when

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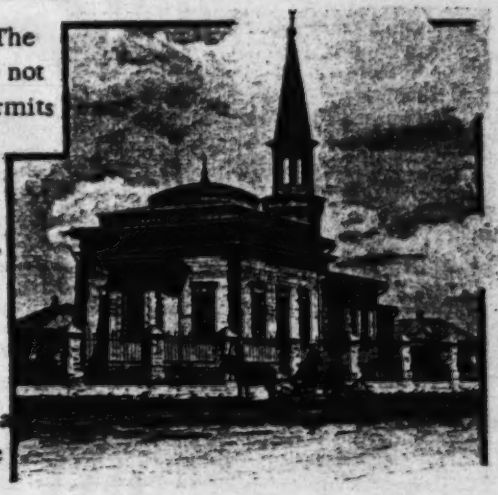
796 785 the day lasts 18-20 hours, fasting constitutes a great feat, especially for the poor who have to work all day. The latter therefore often do not observe it. The law permits [779] taking food for three days or three periods of three days only for [346] [493] old people, sick people, women in labor, and nursing mothers and children.

796 After "uraza," the holiday of "Ramazanayta" [262] (Urazayta) begins. Like the preceding holiday



A type of urban Kirghiz /Kazak/ mosque.

it is marked by an abundant consumption of meat (mutton and horsemeat) and kumiss, and by the arrangement of various amuse-
769 ments (fights, races, etc.). In addition to these two holidays the Kirghiz /Kazak/ celebrate memorial services for their most honored dead, which are accompanied by various feasts, the usual races, competitions in horseback riding, etc.

/222/ The Kirghiz /Kazak/ have not yet emerged from
777 under the rule of nature. This dependence can be felt with
789 every step of the Kirghiz /Kazak/. All the events of his life which are in some way outstanding are linked with special signs, the carrying out of various rituals, etc. The inveterate Kirghiz /Kazak/ will not depart on a long journey, for example, on a Saturday or a Tuesday for fear of misfortune, for these days are considered "dangerous." In extremity he must carry out certain ceremonies in order to protect himself from inevitable misfortune, for example, to go out the night before, taking 40 steps from the yurt in the direction of the proposed journey, and to

765 main banquets are given at the funeral feasts (ash) which are 40 days after the death and one year after it. At these funeral feasts they put on horse races and a feast, and as a result they are very expensive for the relatives.

527 [196] Holidays. The Kazakhs do not keep the Moslem holidays particularly, though they do observe certain fasts(uraza) and celebrate certain days, for example, Kurban-Bairam and others. Their chief celebrations, however, are of a family or folk character, that is, weddings, funeral feasts, or celebrations held on some kind of joyous occasion in the family of a rich and well-known man. Celebrations in such cases often take on a general character and acquaintances and strangers come together there. The celebration begins with a general feast and only then proceeds to the 526 games. The chief amusements are the horse races (baiga) with prizes which are often quite considerable. After this, contests between strong men are very popular, but they never involove fighting with the fists. Finally there is foot racing but the prizes for this 524 are quite insignificant. Games among the young people of both sexes are quite common. The most amusing is the one in which a girl is mounted on a horse and armed with a whip, and is followed by young men. Whoever overtakes her and catches her has the right to kiss her and is allowed other minor liberties, but the amazon is an expert with the /345/ whip and strikes down unwelcome suitors at full length with blows, to the great delight of the onlookers.

527 554 According to Kazakh custom an honored figure is chosen at the celebration to distribute prizes and direct the entertainment, a bey